

Winter kicks off with World Environment Day and World Oceans Day in June, so let's celebrate the wonderful environment we live in!!

Dive into the ocean (brrr...) and scope out the Port Jackson Shark laying her quirky, twisted eggs, trek through the Otways and find the rare Otway Snail or find yourself a cosy lookout to spot a playful Humpback with her calve.

Creature Feature: Black Otway Snail, *Victaphanta compacta*.

The Black Otway Snail is an endangered terrestrial snail of Gondwanan origin, confined to the dark, closed canopy leaf litter of the Great Otway National Park in Victoria.

The Black Otway Snail is a villain of the Otway forest, stealing the lives of other snails, worms and insect larvae to satisfy its hunger for fresh meat.

The Black Otway Snail may not win the *Eco Bachelor of the Year* for its good looks and wicked charm, but it still holds an important place in the ecology of the Otway Forest, though to what extent is yet to be fully understood.



PHOTO: Rose Herben

World wide, non-marine molluscs such as the Black Otway Snail have the largest number of documented extinctions of any group of animals, yet usually attract little or no attention from conservation organizations and government departments.

Native terrestrial (land living) snails have small ranges, making them vulnerable to a number of threatening processes. Pressures contributing to habitat loss within the Otway Ranges include farming, logging, pine plantations (which reduces leaf litter), recreation, building settlements, road building and quarrying.

Winter is the perfect time to spot the rare Black Otway Snail. After rain the snail can often be found sliding over leaf litter on walking tracks in the Great Otway National Park between Lorne and Lavers Hill, so watch where you plant your feet!!!

Easter Holiday Program



Staff at Eco-Logic & Split Point Lighthouse Tours would like to thank everyone who supported our Easter School Holiday Program.

Our **TwisteD ToUrs** at Split Point Lighthouse were a great success, attracting diehard fans from all over Victoria! All participants were more than willing to take after the likes of Bronson Twist and lick fly-covered fly swats and sniff smelly socks! Top effort!

The **Beach@Night** activity proved to be popular among young marine biologists, who enjoyed a game of eel beach flags and later huddled around the lantern to discover the weird and wonderful features of Victoria's marine life.



Those who were lucky enough to join the **Creatures of the Night** walk at Distillery Creek spotted Mick the Powerful Owl, a threatened species in Victoria and a notorious member of the Aireys Inlet Night Scene, as featured in our Spring Newsletter.

Our **July Holiday Program** is out now and promises to be another big one! Walks, whales, lighthouse tours, planting plants, kite-making, canoeing and more! Will you be in the photos next newsletter?...

For more details see our website: www.ecologic.net.au

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Get off the couch!!!

Get off the couch, lace up your comfiest walking shoes, chuck on a rain coat, cover your noggin with a woolly beanie and escape to a wonderland of rainforests, beaches, heathlands, open woodlands, desert plains and alpine environments. In Victoria you're never far from the great outdoors, and Winter's the perfect time to explore.

Bushwalking is a great way to get some exercise, discover new and wonderful places and spend some quality time with your mates. As little as 30 minutes of physical activity a day can improve your bones and muscles, reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes, colon cancer and increase your energy levels.

Before you leave for a bushwalk it's important to plan your route carefully, leave written details with a friend or family member of where you plan to go and an expected time of return, and ensure you are well prepared with the appropriate equipment.

PHOTO: Rose Herben



View towards Aireys Inlet rivermouth

What to Pack



comfy backpack, sunhat, sunscreen, scroggin, map, first aid supplies, mobile phone, compass, drink bottle, raincoat, beanie

Hot Tips

- Know your limits. It's reasonable to estimate that between the ages of 6-12 children can walk as far as 1km for each birthday
- The speed of the party is no faster than the slowest member
- Always wait at track junctions for the last person in the group
- Leave the bush the way you found it, take all rubbish home
- Pack some home made Scroggin. Scroggin is just a cool name for a mish-mash of all your favorite small snacks mixed in a Tupperware container or snaplock bag, eg. chocolate, nuts, sultanas, seeds and dried fruit. Great for an energy boost!
- Stick to the tracks. 1) Less likely to get lost. 2) Stop the spread of nasty Cinnamon fungus

- Pack extra bandages during snake season
- Wear several light layers instead of one heavy layer of clothing, gives you flexibility in temperature control
- Be sun smart
- Place ankle tape on any areas starting to blister after the first 10mins
- Most importantly, have fun and take the time to smell the eucalypts!

Check out these websites to find some great walking tracks waiting to be explored right in your own back yard!

www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

www.vicwalk.org.au

www.goforyourlife.vic.gov.au

International Lighthouse Weekend

August 16 & 17 2008

Come and celebrate with us!

International Lighthouse Weekend is an annual event aimed at raising awareness and appreciation of lighthouses around the world.

At Split Point Lighthouse in Aireys Inlet, we'll be celebrating our local light with discounted lighthouse tours (11am-4pm), Spooky Story and TwiSteD tours, local schools art and story competitions, displays and more!

Not to forget the natural environment of Aireys Inlet, the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee is also providing free Canoe Discovery Paddles so that you can find out more about the Painkalac Creek and estuary.

On the same weekend, is **The Aireys Festival of Words**. Come along for workshops, live music, author readings, poetry and more. Details are at www.aireysinlet.com.au

We hope you can join us on this big weekend...



AIREYS INLET
split POINT
lighthouse tours

Find out more:

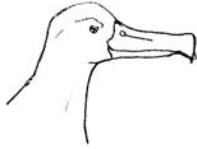
Ph 1800 174 045 or 03) 5236 1133

www.splitpointlighthouse.com.au

Eco Bachelor of the Year: Who do you choose?

Just how well do you know the males of the species? Find out what makes some of them tick...

Wayne Wandering Albatross



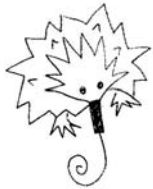
Star Sign: Scorpio
Occupation: Relationship Councilor
I am feeling... Endangered
Best feature? Largest wing span of all extant birds, 3.5m to be exact. Perfect for wrapping my wings around you
My mates say I'm... hard to get in touch with as I spend 90% of my life in flight
I'm not afraid of... Commitment. I live until I'm 80 years old and I mate for life. True love does exist

Sedrick Seahorse



Star Sign: Libra
Occupation: Child Care Worker
People say I look like... Seaweed
My weakness is... I'm the slowest moving fish in the ocean
What's the most romantic thing you have ever done for a girl? Given birth to her 200-odd offspring. No... that's not a beer gut, I'm expecting

Eric Echidna



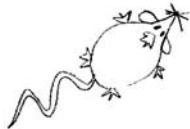
Star sign: Leo
Occupation: Excavator
Favorite Food? Me Mum's home made termite and ant pie
Best feature? My spines
Most romantic thing you have ever done for a girl? Followed her around for a month in competition with seven of me best mates. Of course she chose me!

Craig Cuttlefish



Star sign: Gemini
Occupation: Female Impersonator
My mates say I... light up the dance floor
Favorite food? Fish, crustacean and mollusc medley
What's your best feature? I have three hearts, all the more to love you with
My guilty pleasure... Using my supreme skills of contortion and camouflage to mimic the ladies, to get that little bit closer

Aaron Antechinus



Star Sign: Gemini
Occupation: Model
I am feeling.... Frisky
My mates say I'm... a stud muffin
Greatest achievement? Holding the world record for impregnating the most chicks in the space of two weeks
My best pick up line... I hope you know CPR, because you take my breath away

(Ed. Not many humans know the risky business of being an antechinus. The males die shortly after mating from physical exhaustion!)

Haratio Humpback

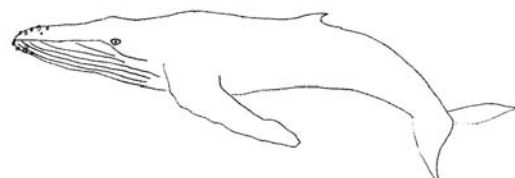
Star sign: Cancer

Occupation: Australian Idol contestant

Biggest turn on? Chicks that have a good set of tubercles (fleshy bumpy bits on the head of a humpback whale)

My best pick up line... Do you want to see something swell?

Most embarrassing moment? Being arrested for crooning a girl from beneath her window for 24 hours at 170 decibels, that's louder than a jet engine!





Staff Profile: Felicity Kelly

Felicity began work with Eco-Logic in October 2007. She was lucky enough to complete her Bachelor of Science (Environmental Science) at the warm and sunny University of the Sunshine Coast.

All Eco-Logic activities inspire Felicity but snorkeling excites her the most! Felicity is a girl of many talents. Aside from Eco-Logic, she's also a surf instructor, a keen swimmer and takes to the ski slopes during the winter.

When asked whether she preferred the beach or the snow, she replied "the beach is definitely my favorite place in the world but the mountains are pretty spectacular and majestic when they're covered with snow".

Felicity says that her most amazing experience at Eco-Logic to date is her summer encounter with a Blue-ringed Octopus. How cool!!

Felicity is a confident and enthusiastic member of the Eco team, who's always up for a challenge. Power to you sister!!

Kids Capers:

THREATENED SPECIES CAMPAIGN

SoS- Save our Species!

Get students to choose an animal or plant from Australia's threatened species list.

Each student must prepare a campaign, educating fellow students about the plant or animal's biology, key threats and what can be done to ensure the survival of the species.

Encourage students to select a species unknown to the class, perhaps an invertebrate such as the Black Otway Snail.

Threatened species listings can be found at:
www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened

Whaling

Some of my fondest memories of the beach in winter are of my family and I huddled in the sand dunes, rugged up with beanies, gloves and jackets, watching the Humpback and Southern Right Whales lobs tailing, spy hopping, flipper slapping and breaching, sometimes as close as 200m from shore on their migration north.

It's hard to believe that once these friendly ocean giants formed the basis of Victoria's primary industry, providing much needed oil for machinery, lighting, lipsticks and soaps. Baleen plates from whales such as the Blue Whale, Southern Right and Humpback also proved to be useful as a strong yet flexible material used for corset stays, umbrella ribs and carriage whips.

Initially an unregulated industry, the efficiency of whaling quickly developed from fleets of open boats using hand harpoons and lances in the late 1700s, to whaling stations, steel net traps and fast Norwegian vessels with explosive cannon harpoons in the 1800s. Whales such as the Blue, Humpback and Southern Right were widely exploited in Australian and Antarctic waters, to the point where whales and seals were nearly exterminated.

As many as two million whales were killed in Antarctic waters during the 20th century. It is said that the discovery of oil underground in America in the 1950s was what saved whales from extinction. Although Humpback and Southern Right Whale numbers are now on the rise, the Antarctic Blue whale numbers have barely increased in the past 30 years and may never recover from whaling.

Thankfully, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 prohibits the harassing and killing of cetaceans in Commonwealth waters, so that one day I can snuggle up in the dunes with my children and appreciate these amazing marine mammals that grace our shores each winter.

Who celebrates World Environment Day?

World Environment Day is celebrated on June 5th every year, and was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972.

World Environment Day is celebrated around the world in many ways, including street rallies, bicycle parades, green concerts, essay and poster competitions in schools, tree planting, recycling efforts, clean-up campaigns and much more. In many countries, this annual event is used to enhance political attention and action.

This year New Zealand hosted major celebrations with the slogan 'Kick the Habit! Towards a Low Carbon Economy'. 2000 was Australia's year, with Adelaide hosting the international event. Norway, Algeria, Japan, Spain, Turkey, South Africa, Brazil and Kenya are among the other countries to play host so far.

More information: www.unep.org/wed/2008/english/

What is World Oceans Day?

World Ocean Day is an opportunity to celebrate our world ocean and our personal connection to the sea. The Ocean Project, working closely with the World Ocean Network, helps each year to coordinate events and activities with aquariums, zoos, museums, conservation organizations, universities, schools and businesses.

The world's ocean generates most of the oxygen we breathe, helps feed us, regulates our climate, cleans the water we drink, offers us a pharmacopoeia of potential medicines and provides limitless inspiration...

World Ocean Day is held on June 8th each year, but you can celebrate any time!

More information: www.theoceanproject.org/wod

Eco-Logic recognizes that we are on Indigenous ground.

We wish to acknowledge and pay respect to the original custodians -both past and present- of Geelong, Anglesea and Aireys Inlet, the Wathaurong, realizing that this land continues to be a place of significance.



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